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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Oman

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-third session from 2 to 13 November 2015. The review of Oman was held at the 8th meeting on 5 November 2015. The delegation of Oman was headed by the Minister of Legal Affairs, Abdullah Mohammed Said Al Sa'eedi. At its 14th meeting, held on 10 November 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Oman.

2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Oman: Montenegro, South Africa and Viet Nam.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Oman:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/OMN/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/OMN/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/OMN/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by the Czech Republic, Germany, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Oman through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the Working Group.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Oman expressed thanks to the Human Rights Council, OHCHR and the troika members.

6. The delegation noted that following the first universal periodic review, the Sultanate had established a committee to examine and follow up on the recommendations made by other States. The committee encompassed representatives of the Government and institutions from civil society. It had elaborated a plan to implement the results of the interactive process of the universal periodic review.

7. The delegation highlighted that as the Sultanate was committed to protecting human dignity and rights, its Constitution expressly provided that no person should be subjected to physical or psychological torture, inducement or demeaning treatment and that any statement or confession proven to have been obtained as a result of torture, or demeaning treatment or the threat of any such acts would be deemed void. The delegation added that the Constitution also affirmed that accused persons were innocent until proven guilty in a legal trial in which the essential guarantees to exercise their right of defence in accordance with the law were upheld, and that it was not permissible to harm an accused, either bodily or mentally.

8. The delegation stated that the amendments introduced to the Constitution in 2011 constituted a comprehensive development in the protection, promotion and respect of human rights. In that vein, the Sultanate had agreed in principle to adhere to the following conventions: the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

9. According to the delegation, the Sultanate had also agreed in principle to withdraw its reservation to article 15 (4) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Furthermore, Oman guaranteed, through articles 11 to 40 of its Constitution, the three generations of human rights. Although the Sultanate was not a party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, it guaranteed the large majority of rights enshrined in that convention.

10. The delegation noted that the political system in Oman was stable and founded on the rule of law, good governance and equality among citizens. One of the main principles in the Constitution was the achievement of economic and social development. Constitutional amendments gave extensive legislative and regulatory powers to the Council of Oman in order to affirm the importance of political participation and the democratic process. Free and transparent elections for the Shura Council had been held recently under the supervision of the high electoral commission, as stipulated by the Constitution. The National Human Rights Commission had observed the elections.

11. The delegation highlighted that the judicial system had been reformed and that the judiciary consequently enjoyed further administrative and financial independence. The Constitution expressly stated that the judiciary should be independent, its authority should be exercised by the courts in their different types and hierarchies, and their judgments should be rendered in accordance with the law; that there should be no power over judges in their ruling except for the law; that judges should be irremovable; and that it was not permissible for any party to interfere in lawsuits or affairs of justice, and such interference would be considered a crime punishable by law.

12. The delegation noted that the Constitution also affirmed the freedom of opinion and expression, which could be exercised in speech, in writing and in other means of expression, and that that freedom was enshrined in Omani legislation.

13. The delegation stated that the right to education was one of the most important rights; it had been among the Government's priorities since 1970. The Constitution affirmed that education was the cornerstone for the progress of society and that the State was to work to combat illiteracy and encourage and promote the sciences, arts, literature and scientific research. The Sultanate supported the establishment of innovation within the national education goals to enable students to keep abreast of scientific progress, especially in the technical field, which provided more employment opportunities for young people.

14. The delegation indicated that the United Nations, in a joint report, had noted the progress achieved by the Sultanate in developing the national strategy for the child. The Government had developed, in consultation with the civil society, a national work plan for the advancement of children and established a commission to prevent the ill-treatment of children.

15. The delegation stated that the Sultanate was a pioneer in the region with respect to women's rights. Women had equal opportunities in higher education and in the labour market and were represented in the highest positions in the State as ministers, deputy ministers, ambassadors and members of the Council of Oman and in other administrative posts in both the public and private sectors. Women had also become active members in the

judiciary, the police and the armed forces. In recognition of women's role in society, the Sultanate annually celebrated Omani women's day on 17 October.

16. In respect of the fight against human trafficking, the delegation recalled that Oman had been among the first States in the region to have issued a comprehensive law in that area and had established a national commission, presided by an official with the rank of minister. Since its first review in 2011, Oman had achieved remarkable progress in respect of its strategy to combat human trafficking, which was based on four pillars: developing legislation and rules to combat human trafficking; providing the authorities concerned with guidance on preventive and deterrent measures; providing protection and support to the victims; and strengthening international collaboration to combat human trafficking.

17. The delegation noted that Oman had established a strategy to combat all forms of forced labour by imposing heavy fines on offenders, and had increased the number of shelters for women and children who were victims of sexual exploitation.

18. In the humanitarian field, the delegation indicated that the Sultanate worked on providing financial support to developing countries, and the Oman Charitable Organization supported urgent relief operations worldwide in response to natural disasters.

19. The delegation noted that in order to ensure a national staff capable of tackling human rights issues, the National Human Rights Commission, in collaboration with OHCHR and many specialized training centres, trained staff on human rights and strove to promote a culture of human rights.

20. The delegation stated that the Sultanate consistently emphasized the importance of dialogue between stakeholders on human rights issues that references the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the diversity of civilizations and the cultural specificity of each society. Oman made concrete efforts to consolidate the concepts of coexistence and tolerance through the reinforcement of the principle of respect of religious freedom; in that context, the Sultanate had created centres for dialogue between different religions and confessions and had established chairs in science at international universities. Tolerance was an inherent characteristic of Omani society; the Government ensured religious and intellectual freedom for citizens and residents.

21. The delegation mentioned that Oman was located in a troubled region, but that did not dissuade it from seeking peaceful resolutions and narrowing the differences to put an end to regional conflicts. That role was noted recently by the Secretary-General, who had thanked Oman for its constructive role in helping to resolve the conflict in Yemen and in discussing the latest developments in the peace process in the Middle East and the Syrian Arab Republic.

22. The delegation recalled the firm position of Oman in supporting the Palestinian people in exercising their right to self-determination; establishing their State with East Jerusalem as its capital, side by side with Israel; and ending the longest occupation in the world.

23. The delegation highlighted that the events that the Arab world had been witnessing had brought major challenges to several countries. Through wise policies implemented under the leadership of the Sultan, Oman had worked to balance the addition of further rights and freedoms with the dictates of maintaining stability and security.

24. The delegation concluded by saying that Oman would continue its efforts to foster the protection and promotion of human rights and to make the Council a forum in which to advance human rights, free from politicization and selectivity.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

25. During the interactive dialogue, 85 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

26. Costa Rica expressed concern at, among other things, the limited representation of women in decision-making positions; the lack of independence of the judiciary and restrictions on the freedom of expression and of association.

27. Bahrain commended the efforts made by Oman to adopt measures and initiatives to strengthen and protect human rights, in particular through its commitment to fulfil its obligations and pledges.

28. Cyprus welcomed the decision of Oman to agree in principle to accede to a number of international human rights legal instruments.

29. The Czech Republic expressed appreciation for the responses made to some of its advance questions.

30. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea commended Oman on the promotion of the role of women, noting in particular that women constituted 43 per cent of the workforce in the civil service sector.

31. Denmark was pleased to note that Oman had agreed in principle to accede to the Convention against Torture.

32. Qatar valued the developments in promoting and protecting human rights and commended legislative measures, such as the law on children; the military judicial law; and the ratification of treaties.

33. Egypt highlighted the adoption of several national laws and strategies and the establishment of institutions for the promotion of human rights.

34. Estonia noted with appreciation the cooperation of Oman with the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and encouraged Oman to implement his recommendations.

35. France made recommendations to Oman.

36. While acknowledging the steps taken to protect the rights of the child and promote the role of women, Georgia encouraged Oman to increase efforts to reach international standards.

37. Germany asked Oman what the state of affairs was regarding accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

38. Ghana was concerned at reports of discrimination against women; use of excessive force by the police against citizens exercising their rights to the freedom of speech and of assembly; and conditions of employment of migrant workers.

39. Honduras welcomed the decision to prohibit female genital mutilation in hospitals. It also acknowledged the national strategy for the period 2016-2025 on the rights of women, persons with disabilities and children.

40. While welcoming the Omani citizenship law, which enabled Omani women married to foreigners to transmit their citizenship to their children, Iceland expressed concern at some provisions that undermined efforts towards equal treatment of all citizens.

41. Brunei Darussalam welcomed laws and legislations enacted to uphold the rights of workers and employers.

42. Indonesia noted that Oman had developed education that was compulsory up to the completion of the basic level, and also noted its commitments to ensure access to education for all people.

43. The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed its appreciation for the legislative measures taken by Oman since its first review and for the positive developments in human rights institutions and mechanisms.

44. Iraq commended the human rights achievements made since the first review and the efforts in amending national legislation in accordance with the ratified international human rights treaties.

45. Ireland expressed concern at reports of discrimination against women and of arrests of human rights defenders and journalists. It called upon Oman to take further steps to protect and support civil society organizations.

46. Italy welcomed the commitment of Oman to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the ongoing review of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and the promulgation of decrees No. 22/2014 and No. 38/2014. It also acknowledged the efforts made by Oman to strengthen women's empowerment.

47. Jordan commended the initiatives and special measures to develop the legislative, institutional and constitutional framework and to establish action plans and special commissions on human rights.

48. Kuwait acknowledged the cooperation of Oman with civil society, the ratification of human rights treaties and the amendment of legislation in accordance with the constitution.

49. Latvia encouraged Oman to strengthen its efforts to eliminate discrimination against women, in particular with regard to divorce, inheritance, child custody and legal guardianship of children.

50. Lebanon highlighted good practices in human rights education and the free and compulsory education, in particular the inclusion of human rights in curricula.

51. Libya commended Oman for its ratification of the Arab treaty on money laundering and financing terrorism.

52. Malaysia expressed appreciation for efforts made by Oman to combat trafficking and noted its promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly in education.

53. Maldives expressed appreciation for the efforts made in establishing institutional mechanisms focusing on strategies for social work, women and children, and persons with disabilities.

54. Mauritania noted with satisfaction the amendments to the nationality law granting additional rights to Omani citizens, and encouraged Oman to comply with the implementation of the law.

55. Mexico welcomed the action taken to promote a more inclusive education in connection with the adoption of the national strategy for persons with disabilities.

56. Montenegro asked the delegation to elaborate on the measures that the Government planned to take to prohibit discrimination against women in all areas of life.

57. Namibia commended the adoption of the children's act, and the increased representation of women in the public and private sectors. It encouraged Oman to increase the participation of citizens in public life.

58. The Netherlands commended Oman for its invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

59. Nigeria commended Oman for the policies and legislation implemented to promote human rights, including in respect of citizenship and transparency in the electoral appeal law.

60. While Norway acknowledged that Oman had made progress in advancing the status of women, it noted that their status still lagged behind that of men, especially regarding the right to transfer their nationality to their children.

61. Pakistan welcomed the various programmes and mechanisms established for the welfare of children and disabled and elderly people.

62. Panama commended Oman for the development of a national work plan for the implementation of the recommendations that it had accepted in the context of its first universal periodic review.

63. The Philippines encouraged Oman to set up a national human rights institution compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and urged the Government to continue to ensure the protection of migrant workers.

64. The delegation of Oman stated that the Sultanate's policies, plans and programmes were all devoted to achieving the objectives of sustainable development. The Sultanate strove to take measures to improve social development, and focused on a concept of development based on partnership, empowerment and equality.

65. The delegation noted that the Sultanate ensured the social protection of children, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. In that context, it had ratified a number of international conventions in the field of human rights. In addition, since 2013 the Sultanate had been preparing a social work strategy.

66. Regarding women's rights, the delegation indicated that women had a privileged position in Omani society and played an active role in the economic and social development process in the country. They had the same rights as men, in accordance with the Constitution.

67. The delegation noted that the provision of rehabilitation programmes for persons with disabilities was a priority of the Sultanate; such programmes were aimed at developing the potential and abilities of persons with disabilities and promoting their participation and integration in society.

68. In fulfilment of its commitments under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols to which Oman was a party, and in reinforcement of the rights of the child in Oman, the delegation noted that the Government had promulgated the child law in 2014 and had created child protection committees in various governorates. The committees received and followed up on complaints and communications, from individuals and governmental and civil actors, related to any violation of the rights of the child.

69. The delegation reaffirmed the importance of civil society institutions and indicated that their representatives were invited to participate in various committees and conferences.

70. The delegation explained that the cooperation of the Ministry of Manpower with the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the technical expertise and practical capacities of ILO that Oman had been able to draw on, had helped enable the Sultanate to develop labour legislation, organize the labour market and develop programmes and regulations guaranteeing the rights of employers and workers.

71. Regarding the expatriate labour force, the delegation stated that contracts were agreed by the employer and the worker and approved by the official authorities in the Sultanate, including the embassies of some sending States.

72. The delegation noted that the Sultanate paid great attention to workers; that was reflected in the labour law, which did not distinguish between man and woman. That law also provided for penalties for those who violated its provisions, including workers' rights defined in the law. The Ministry of Manpower provided various services to ensure the application of the labour law and related ministerial decisions, as well as the monitoring of private enterprises through inspection services. It also settled labour disputes, received complaints and sought their amicable settlement. In addition, the Ministry ensured that workers receive their wages through the protection-of-wages system. The Ministry had also issued, through Ministerial Decision No. 322/2011, the regulation on safety and occupational health measures in enterprises subject to the labour law.

73. The delegation stated that the Sultanate paid utmost attention to the labour force engaged in domestic work, as reflected in Ministerial Decision No. 189/2004 on the rules and conditions related to the work of domestic workers and Ministerial Decision No. 1/2011 related to the regulation of the recruitment of non-Omani domestic workers, whereby the Government regulated the work of offices recruiting expatriate domestic workers in order to guarantee their rights and prevent trafficking. The Ministry had also established a committee mandated to meet with the embassies of the sending States to find adequate solutions for the difficulties facing women employed as domestic workers and to discuss the situation of the expatriate labour force.

74. The delegation noted that in the event that any worker was subject to exploitation, violence or a violation of any of his or her rights, he or she was entitled to resort to the competent judicial authorities to seek legal protection. Committed to its obligations in respect of the international labour standards, the Sultanate had signed a memorandum of understanding with ILO in 2011 to implement the national programme for decent work.

75. The delegation affirmed the commitment of Oman to implementing the international labour standards in accordance with its national needs, with a view to achieving sustainable development and an equitable labour market for all.

76. Portugal welcomed the efforts made by Oman to consolidate the legal framework for the protection and promotion of human rights, but expressed regret that Oman still retained the death penalty.

77. Djibouti commended Oman for its efforts to strengthen human rights, in particular in targeting economic growth and improving the living conditions of its population.

78. The Republic of Korea noted with appreciation the withdrawal or modification of the reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the invitation extended to the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

79. Saudi Arabia commended Oman for its achievements in education and human rights awareness among different sectors.

80. Senegal welcomed efforts towards the establishment of compulsory primary education free of charge, access to health care and the new law on transmission of Omani nationality.

81. Sierra Leone noted with appreciation the passing of an impressive number of decrees. It encouraged the implementation of the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on ensuring active participation of women in society.

82. Singapore commended the commitment of Oman to ensure equal educational opportunities without discrimination and encouraged Oman to continue its efforts to develop quality health care.

83. Slovakia acknowledged efforts to improve the level of protection of children's rights. It encouraged Oman to explore further ways of increasing cooperation with other special procedure mandate holders.

84. Slovenia noted positively the withdrawal of reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and efforts towards the eradication of child labour. It remained concerned about the lack of legal protection addressing violence against women.

85. Spain acknowledged the progress made in the participation of women in public life and the reform of the law on nationality. It welcomed the visit to Oman of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

86. Sri Lanka noted the promulgation of the child law, which made education compulsory and free; Health Vision 2050, including strategies for the advancement of women; and the national plan for the elderly.

87. The State of Palestine noted the efforts in strengthening the judiciary to ensure its independence. It commended Oman for making education free and compulsory and for incorporating human rights into the curricula.

88. The Sudan commended Oman for the constitutional, legislative and institutional changes, such as the child law, the law on nationality and the establishment of the general directorate for persons with disabilities.

89. Sweden made recommendations to Oman.

90. Switzerland welcomed the absence, for over 10 years, of executions in Oman. It expressed concern about restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

91. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that Oman had taken on a humanitarian role of bringing religions and cultures together.

92. Tajikistan noted the measures taken in the area of labour, measures to improve the situation of families and measures to improve education through an approach promoting human rights.

93. Thailand acknowledged the progress made in education, health care and social services and welcomed initiatives to promote and empower Omani women.

94. Tunisia noted the adoption of laws to strengthen human rights; the ratification of treaties and the agreement to accede to additional treaties; and the implementation of the strategy for the empowerment of women and persons with disabilities.

95. Turkey encouraged Oman to continue its efforts in the area of women's rights, particularly in respect of women's representation in decision-making mechanisms such as the Shura Council.

96. Turkmenistan noted that Oman enhanced the working conditions of expatriate labourers by issuing legislation and regulations.

97. Ukraine noted the elaboration by Oman of national strategies and plans for the advancement of women, children and elderly persons, for health care and for the combating of human trafficking.

98. The United Arab Emirates commended Oman for the measures taken to achieve human development, in particular through the adoption of a number of national strategies on women, the elderly and children.

99. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the visit to Oman undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of assembly and of

association. It encouraged Oman to grant the National Human Rights Commission greater independence.

100. The United States of America remained concerned at the Government's limited efforts to hold forced-labour offenders accountable through criminal prosecution, at the continuing restrictions on freedom of expression and civil society and at the detention of bloggers.

101. The delegation of Oman noted that Omani legislation guaranteed freedom of assembly as long as the assembly was peaceful, did not disturb the public order or jeopardize health and avoided violating others' rights. It explained that the law did not criminalize assembly per se, but rather only in respect of the commission of offences under provisions of the law. In the event that such an offence was committed, a trial in which all legal rights were guaranteed was held.

102. The delegation added that the Omani legislation also guaranteed freedom of association. Although the law on civil associations promulgated through Royal Decree No. 14/2000 made the Ministry of Social Development responsible for receiving applications for the registration of civil associations, it required the Ministry to justify negative decisions in that regard in accordance with article 11 of the law. The law also provided for the possibility, should an application be rejected, for associations to appeal to the Minister within a month from the date of receipt of the refusal decision. In the event the Minister rejected the appeal, the association concerned had the right to appeal the Minister's decision before the independent administrative judiciary court to verify the validity of the administrative decisions. The registration of many associations during the recent period, in various fields and for various purposes, underlined the flexibility and transparency of the registration procedures.

103. The delegation noted that the Sultanate had experience as a leader in integrating human rights in the field of education. The most prominent steps taken in that regard were the issuance of the child law, which made education free and compulsory, and the implementation of the Arab plan for human rights education for the period 2009-2014. The plan was based on several pillars, including the integration of the concepts of human rights in school curricula, the training of staff in human rights education and the dissemination of a culture of human rights.

104. With regard to children with disabilities, the delegation mentioned that the Ministry of Education worked to provide equal educational opportunities for all students in the Sultanate without discrimination. Integration programmes for persons with mental disabilities and hearing impairment were included in elementary education. Further opportunities were provided for the completion of university studies; in that context, a number of deaf students — graduates of the school year 2013/14 — had been sent to the United States of America and Jordan to complete their studies.

105. The delegation noted that the institutions of higher education had introduced the concepts of human rights in their cultural programmes. Moreover, advisory student councils at institutions of higher education had been launched in the academic year 2014/15 with a view to promoting among students the practice of the democratic process.

106. Uruguay expressed hope that Oman would soon implement its decision to accede to the Convention against Torture. It encouraged Oman to ensure the full independence of the National Human Rights Commission.

107. Uzbekistan welcomed the national strategies to protect and promote the rights of children, women, the disabled and the elderly, as well as activities to raise awareness of human rights.

108. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted the adoption of the national strategy for the development of women and the decree on free and compulsory education.

109. Viet Nam noted progress regarding children's rights, women, persons with disabilities and human rights education.

110. Yemen welcomed the ratification by Oman of most international human rights instruments and its efforts in promoting the rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities.

111. Afghanistan commended the measures aimed at eradicating illiteracy and ensuring there is no quality gap in education between males and females.

112. Algeria noted the adoption of and amendments to legislation on the judiciary and the fight against corruption. It welcomed the intention of Oman to adopt policies regarding children, women, workers and persons with disabilities.

113. Argentina congratulated Oman for its national strategy for children and the increase in the enrolment of women and girls in all levels of education. It expressed concern about the lack of free compulsory education for all.

114. Australia commended the progress of Oman in providing access to education for women and girls. It was concerned at the restrictions to freedom of expression and assembly.

115. Azerbaijan appreciated the establishment of the ministerial steering committee and executive working group aimed at enabling Oman to fulfil its commitments vis-à-vis human rights mechanisms.

116. Cuba highlighted the progress made by Oman in its health-care system and the guarantee of universal access to quality education.

117. Bangladesh expressed appreciation for the adoption of laws and regulations to develop the labour market in a manner consistent with national requirements and international labour standards.

118. Bhutan noted the steps taken by Oman to address the rights of all children through the promulgation of the children's act. It also expressed appreciation for the policy of providing universal education.

119. Brazil praised Oman for providing financial contributions to OHCHR. It encouraged Oman to ensure that its National Human Rights Commission complied with the Paris Principles.

120. India commended Oman for its achievements in health and education, and encouraged it to continue to take additional measures to promote gender equality.

121. Burundi congratulated Oman for the measures taken to ensure the independence of the judiciary, and for its policies on free education and human rights education.

122. Canada welcomed efforts to strengthen the participation of women during the Shura Council elections and the establishment of a committee to monitor the compliance of Oman with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It expressed concern at limits imposed on freedom of opinion and expression.

123. Chad noted the legislation adopted and measures taken by Oman, such as the nationality law, the labour law, the inclusion of human rights in policies and programmes, and the provision of free and compulsory education.

124. Chile expressed concern about discrimination against women in Oman.

125. China commended Oman for the formulation of strategic plans to promote the right to health among women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. It noted positively the drop in illiteracy rates, as well as fairness in education.

126. The Comoros congratulated Oman for its progress in the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, including in respect of education, training and access to decision-making positions.

127. Morocco welcomed the efforts to enshrine the foundations of the rule of law through judicial reforms, and the adoption of the law that permitted women with foreign husbands to transmit their nationality to their children.

128. In concluding, the delegation of Oman thanked all delegations for their statements and for their recommendations aimed at promoting and protecting human rights. It stated that all of the recommendations would be taken into consideration and that all of the competent authorities would be consulted.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

129. **The following recommendations will be examined by Oman, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-first session of the Human Rights Council, in March 2016:**

129.1 **Speed up the accession to the international human rights instruments that were approved in principle and take the necessary measures to apply their provisions (Algeria);**

129.2 **Ratify the outstanding human rights treaties (Slovenia);**

129.3 **Ratify the two 1966 Covenants and their Optional Protocols (Italy);**

129.4 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia) (Costa Rica) (Montenegro) (Slovakia) (Slovenia) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Uruguay);**

129.5 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights without reservations (Germany) (Switzerland);**

129.6 **Accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Canada);**

129.7 **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Ghana);**

129.8 **Consider acceding to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Republic of Korea);**

129.9 **Continue to positively consider the accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) (Viet Nam);**

129.10 **Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Sierra Leone);**

129.11 **Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Sierra Leone);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited

129.12 **Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia) (France);**

129.13 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);**

129.14 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro);**

129.15 **Consider ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocol (Namibia);**

129.16 **Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Australia) (Slovakia) (Slovenia);**

129.17 **Accede to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Canada);**

129.18 **Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights without reservations (Germany);**

129.19 **Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Sierra Leone);**

129.20 **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Ghana);**

129.21 **Consider acceding to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Republic of Korea);**

129.22 **Pursue the necessary procedure to accede to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) (Viet Nam);**

129.23 **Take the necessary measures to accede to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966 (Jordan);**

129.24 **Take all appropriate actions in order to become a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Cyprus);**

129.25 **Expedite the domestic legal procedures required for early ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (India);**

129.26 **Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol (France) (Portugal);**

129.27 **Ratify the Convention against Torture (Canada) (France) (Slovakia);**

129.28 **Ratify the Convention against Torture, as previously recommended (Denmark);**

129.29 **Ratify the Convention against Torture without reservations (Germany) (Switzerland);**

129.30 **Sign and ratify the Convention against Torture (Sierra Leone);**

129.31 **Pursue the necessary procedure to accede to the Convention against Torture (1984) (Viet Nam);**

129.32 **Take all appropriate actions in order to become a party to the Convention against Torture (Cyprus);**

129.33 **Consider ratification of the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol (Namibia);**

129.34 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol (Slovenia) (Portugal);**

129.35 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Denmark);**

129.36 **Withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as supported by Oman during its first cycle universal periodic review (Netherlands);**

129.37 **Take all necessary measures to officially withdraw the reservation from paragraph 4 of article 15 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Djibouti);**

129.38 **Lift its reservations to paragraph 4 of Article 15 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, not only in practice but also in its legislation (Burundi);**

129.39 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (France) (Turkey);**

129.40 **Consider the possibility to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Panama);**

129.41 **Withdraw the remaining reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by Oman (Estonia);**

129.42 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);**

129.43 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Slovenia);**

129.44 **Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Nigeria);**

129.45 **Ratify the human rights instruments to which it is not yet party, in particular the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras);**

129.46 **Consider accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and ILO Convention No. 189 (Philippines);**

129.47 **Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol (France);**

129.48 **Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (France);**

129.49 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Chad) (France);**

129.50 **Take all necessary measures towards ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Cyprus);**

129.51 **Ratify and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Latvia);**

129.52 **Ratify the Rome Statute that it signed on 20 December 2000 (Switzerland);**

129.53 **Ratify and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Estonia);**

129.54 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement it fully at national level and accede to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (Slovakia);**

129.55 **Ratify and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Portugal);**

129.56 **Ratify ILO Conventions No. 87 and No. 98 (Slovenia);**

129.57 **Accede to the International Labour Organization (Nigeria);**

129.58 **Accede to the ILO Convention No. 189 on domestic workers (Senegal);**

129.59 **Ratify the different ILO conventions on the labour market (Chad);**

129.60 **Continue improving the protection of labour rights, in particular regarding foreign and domestic workers, by ratifying and implementing ILO Convention No. 189 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (Germany);**

129.61 **Increase the participation of its citizens in governance in line with the pledge in the previous round of the universal periodic review and support the National Human Rights Commission by ratifying and implementing ILO Convention No. 87 regarding freedom of association and protection of the right to organize (Sweden);**

129.62 **Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Afghanistan);**

129.63 **Seek means and guarantees to apply the provisions of the Basic Law of the State and its amendments (Syrian Arab Republic);**

129.64 **Continue strengthening domestic legislation in light of recognized international human rights standards, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

129.65 **Include an explicit provision in the Omani domestic legislation on prohibition of discrimination against women in all areas of life, including in the private sphere (Portugal);**

129.66 **Put in place policies, legal frameworks and executive actions for human development and empowerment of women (Costa Rica);**

129.67 **Further revise the current legislation on personal status, nationality, employment and education in order to reinforce non-discrimination against women (Italy);**

129.68 **Consider amending its domestic laws to grant Omani women equal rights with men with regard to transmission of their nationality to their children, as previously recommended (Republic of Korea);**

129.69 **Review its Nationality Law in order to ensure that an Omani mother has the right to confer the Omani citizenship to her children without discrimination (Portugal);**

129.70 **Take further measures to eradicate discrimination against women, as prescribed by Article 17 of the Omani Basic Statute of the State, as well as by the positive remarks made during the previous round of the universal periodic review in 2011, by considering the withdrawal of its reservation to Article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and allowing women to pass on their citizenship to their children in the same manner as men (Sweden);**

129.71 **End discrimination against women and girls in accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and allow women to pass on their nationality in an equal manner with men (Iceland);**

129.72 **End discrimination in law and practice against women and girls, including by allowing women to pass their nationality onto their children in an equal manner with men (Ireland);**

129.73 **Modify the law on citizenship to grant women the right to transmit the Omani nationality to their children (France);**

129.74 **Amend the provisions of the Nationality Law to ensure that women are granted equality with men in conferring nationality to their children (Canada);**

129.75 **Adopt legal measures to ensure equality between men and women regarding nationality rights (Chile);**

129.76 **Take active steps to amend or repeal all discriminatory provisions that prevent women acquiring, retaining and transferring citizenship on equal basis with men and ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Namibia);**

129.77 **Take further concrete measures to advance the personal status of women, including their right to transfer nationality to their children (Norway);**

129.78 **Revise the Omani Nationality Law, to guarantee citizenship for children born to non-Omani fathers (Sierra Leone);**

129.79 **Amend the Nationality Code to eliminate the possibility that the withdrawal of the Omani nationality would lead to cases of statelessness (France);**

129.80 **Take steps to eliminate violence against women and include in the legislation an explicit prohibition on discrimination against women (Mexico);**

129.81 **Adopt legislation to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence (Italy);**

129.82 **Pass a law to criminalize violence against women explicitly (Chile);**

129.83 **Ensure by law the effective protection of women against gender-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, and marital rape (Slovenia);**

129.84 **Continue to make efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation by enacting legislation which prohibits this practice and adopt a National Action**

Plan to increase awareness among women of the harmful consequences of the practice of female genital mutilation (Italy);

129.85 **Consider withdrawing reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to adopt and implement specific legislation to prevent and counter violence against women, including domestic violence, and to create an institutional framework dedicated to receiving complaints, to ensuring the effective protection of women who suffered or are at the risk of suffering from violence and to provide compensation and accountability against perpetrators (Brazil);**

129.86 **Further ensure, in accordance with the positive stated ambitions in the previous round of the universal periodic review and Omani practice, the well-being of Omani girls by formally and explicitly encoding the prohibition against female genital mutilation into the Child Law, accompanied by a public information campaign (Sweden);**

129.87 **Continue efforts to close the gender gap, especially in workforce participation and equality before the law (Australia);**

129.88 **Strengthen its efforts to ensure that youth and children who come into contact with the justice system enjoy adequate protection and are subject to courts specialized in juvenile justice (Thailand);**

129.89 **Undertake a process with a view to repealing the legislation that criminalizes homosexuality and adopt measures to combat discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation (Mexico);**

129.90 **Safeguard the right to opinion and speech, as prescribed by Article 29 of the Omani Basic Statute of the State, by reviewing current legislation and working towards specifying its limits and boundaries in a clear and consistent manner (Sweden);**

129.91 **Adopt and implement a national legislation with the view to provide public access to information, including governmental information (Ukraine);**

129.92 **Revise its Law to Counter Information Technology Crimes to protect online expression and allow internet access without blocking content (United States of America);**

129.93 **Reform civil society laws to establish a streamlined legal framework through which independent organizations can register, and to allow these organizations to accept assistance and contributions from foreign sources (United States of America);**

129.94 **Continue its efforts to enhance the working conditions of expatriate labourers by issuing legislation and regulations to promote and protect the rights of expatriate workers in Oman Labour Law (Turkmenistan);**

129.95 **Consider participating in solving the problems of refugees from the Middle East region that are forced to seek asylum abroad. In this regard, elaboration of the national legislation on refugees could be advisable (Ukraine);**

129.96 **Recommend that the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking carry out further efforts to implement its mandate, taking into account the standards contained in the international and regional conventions to which Oman is a party (Qatar);**

129.97 **Allow the National Human Rights Commission to function in an independent manner in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Ghana);**

129.98 **Ensure that the National Human Rights Institution is in full compliance with the Paris Principles and has a broad and inclusive human rights mandate (Sierra Leone);**

129.99 **Reform the status of the National Commission of Human Rights in line with the Paris Principles, thereby guaranteeing its independence (Spain);**

129.100 **Ensure the institutionalization of an independent national human rights commission in accordance with the Paris Principles (Chile);**

129.101 **Continue the significant reforms that have been already implemented to enable the National Human Rights Commission to be in conformity with the Paris Principles (Comoros);**

129.102 **Continue forward with the humanitarian efforts undertaken by the Omani Charitable Organization (United Arab Emirates);**

129.103 **Continue efforts to develop laws and legislation to bring them in line with international texts and strengthen efforts in education (Morocco);**

129.104 **Develop a mainstreaming strategy for women's rights, to be applied to policies in all fields, with a view to ensure gender equality (Turkey);**

129.105 **Continue to strengthen its policies and programmes for enhancing women's rights, empowerment and equality in accordance with its socio-cultural and national context (Bangladesh);**

129.106 **Continue to adopt policies and legislations to guarantee the equality for women in all spheres and that they benefit from judicial remedies against any discriminatory practice or violence (Honduras);**

129.107 **Adopt concrete policy measures to eradicate the clandestine practice of female mutilation and to allocate human and financial resources to relevant authorities to succeed (Honduras);**

129.108 **Redouble efforts to effectively end the practice of female genital mutilation, in line with recommendations by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Slovenia);**

129.109 **Continue to carry out various programs for the advancement of the status of women and children in the Sultanate (Bahrain);**

129.110 **Continue its positive measures in the advancement of women and children in the country including by ensuring effective implementation of its policies and programmes (Malaysia);**

129.111 **Enhance its awareness-raising campaign to combat negative stereotyping against women and prohibit violence against women (Malaysia);**

129.112 **Intensify the efforts and the measures taken to protect women rights in an effective way which corresponds with the culture of the society (Saudi Arabia);**

129.113 **Establish a coordinated general strategy on gender issues in all public institutions (Chile);**

129.114 **Continue including young people in the democratic process through the commission established for this purpose (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

129.115 **Continue to seriously combat trafficking in persons, implementing legislation in this area, the National Plan against Trafficking in persons (2008-**

2016), the on-line police system to receive complaints of victims of trafficking in persons and to fight this scourge (Cuba);

129.116 **Implement what came in the women's and children's strategies, and the development of policies and programs that promote these two issues (Kuwait);**

129.117 **Continue strengthening practical measures to bring about effective implementation of the Children's Act (Bhutan);**

129.118 **Thoroughly implement the Child Law and strengthen awareness-raising campaigns to promote children's rights (Slovakia);**

129.119 **Ensure effective monitoring of the electronic wage protection system at national level and extend its implementation to all companies based in Oman (Turkey);**

129.120 **Continue to address the challenges which impede progress in human rights (Cuba);**

129.121 **Pursue the strengthening of the capacity-building of country's qualified specialists and managers working in the human rights field (Viet Nam);**

129.122 **Raise the level of human rights awareness among members of society (Bahrain);**

129.123 **Enhance its efforts to promote and raise awareness of the culture of human rights (Sudan);**

129.124 **Launch media campaigns to raise awareness of human rights (State of Palestine);**

129.125 **Continue raising awareness of the culture of human rights (Lebanon);**

129.126 **Exchange information and opinions with States to achieve the best practices on human rights issues (Kuwait);**

129.127 **Continue its engagement with the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations for the protection and promotion of human rights and consider the issuance of a standing invitation to these human rights mechanisms (Azerbaijan);**

129.128 **Extend a standing invitation to all special procedures (Spain);**

129.129 **Strengthen cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council by extending a standing invitation to all the special procedures mandate holders (Latvia);**

129.130 **Adopt measures to address all forms of discrimination — such as against women or religious minorities — including support to public debates, awareness-raising campaigns and steps towards the revision of discriminatory provisions in the legislation (Czech Republic);**

129.131 **Further work to achieve effective equality between men and women, particularly when it comes to laws governing divorce, inheritance and custody of children (Uruguay);**

129.132 **Adopt the necessary measures to abolish the death penalty (Mexico);**

129.133 **Adopt a moratorium on the death penalty (Costa Rica);**

129.134 **Announce a moratorium on the application of the death penalty with a view to its abolition in law (France);**

129.135 **Adopt a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing capital punishment in national legislation (Italy);**

129.136 **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty as an interim measure towards its total abolition (Portugal);**

129.137 **Establish an official moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to abolishing it (Slovenia);**

129.138 **Consider the possibility to establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty, and commute death sentences to prison sentences (Spain);**

129.139 **Establish a de jure moratorium on the death penalty and a commutation of all capital sentences with a view to its future abolition (Switzerland);**

129.140 **Ensure that foreign nationals in detention have access to consular assistance by establishing measures that could facilitate timely issuance of permits for prison visits by consular authorities (Philippines);**

129.141 **Increase its efforts for more attention to child issues (Iraq);**

129.142 **Explicitly prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the home (Estonia);**

129.143 **Continue efforts to prohibit child labour (Georgia);**

129.144 **Organize awareness-raising programmes in favour of public as well as local and national authorities on issues related to combating human trafficking and relevant laws (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

129.145 **Strengthen measures to combat human trafficking and take measures to protect victims of trafficking (Sri Lanka);**

129.146 **Increase efforts aiming at building the capacity of the judicial personnel technically and administratively (State of Palestine);**

129.147 **Increase human rights training and awareness-raising programmes for prosecution and judicial officers and the media (Egypt);**

129.148 **Implement training programs on human rights to further increase awareness of civil servants, including law enforcement and justice system personnel (Uzbekistan);**

129.149 **Continue its efforts to organise intensive courses for members of the public prosecutor office in the field of human rights, in line with the steps being made for the independence of the public prosecutor and to separate it from the police (Yemen);**

129.150 **Enhance efforts in a way which guarantees combatting corruption as the government amended its financial and administrative bureau and expand its mandate in accordance with the sultanate decree 27 of 2011 (Iraq);**

129.151 **Continue its efforts to protect freedoms and to strengthen human rights (Lebanon);**

129.152 **Continue in its efforts in protecting general freedoms and basic rights in all areas that the Constitution emphasised in harmony with the principles of human rights (United Arab Emirates);**

129.153 **Ensure the full enjoyment of the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, including those of human rights activists, journalists and users of social networks, so that they no longer have to fear being arrested, detained, harassed or intimidated (Switzerland);**

129.154 **Improve protection of the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association, by amending the Press and Publications Law and the Civil Societies Law in line with international standards and by accepting the recommendations by the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in 2014 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

129.155 **Ensure that all criminal law provisions, including Articles 126, 135, 137 and 173 of the Penal Code, which impose harsh penalties for a wide range of legitimate expression, are fully consistent with the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association (Canada);**

129.156 **Guarantee that the law on media and publications enables full exercise of freedom of expression, in particular on the Internet (France);**

129.157 **Keep up with the environment of freedom of publication and freedom of expression (Libya);**

129.158 **Demonstrate the Government's commitment to uphold international human rights standards by ensuring full respect for the rights of citizens to freedom of speech and peaceful assembly (Ghana);**

129.159 **Amend the relevant labour laws to enhance the protection of the human rights of all migrant workers (Ghana);**

129.160 **Guarantee in legislation and in practice the right to peaceful assembly for all, without exceptions, regardless of nationality (Chile);**

129.161 **Take steps to guarantee the right to peaceful assembly for its citizens (Namibia);**

129.162 **Facilitate procedures for holding peaceful protests and refrain from criminally punishing the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly, including through unregistered peaceful assemblies (Czech Republic);**

129.163 **Properly investigate cases of the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials against protestors in 2011 and 2012, including prosecuting and punishing all those responsible (Czech Republic);**

129.164 **Guarantee in law and in practice the freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and remove all restrictions placed on the right to peaceful protests (Estonia);**

129.165 **Guarantee the full exercise of freedom of association, promote and facilitate the activities of all non-governmental organizations (France);**

129.166 **Amend article 134 of the Penal Code of Oman and any other legislation that disproportionately restricts the right to freedom of association (Iceland);**

129.167 **Implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (Netherlands);**

129.168 **Fully and effectively implement the recommendations by the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, following his mission to Oman in September 2014 (Republic of Korea);**

129.169 **Implement the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association to extend the guarantee of peaceful assembly to non-Omani citizens (Sierra Leone);**

129.170 **Review its legislative measures and practices in relation to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, with regard to the report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association following his mission in September 2014 (Australia);**

129.171 **Amend or, at least, abstain from applying any law or measure which might endanger the right to life, to freedom and to physical integrity of individuals for reasons associated with their alleged or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity (Brazil);**

129.172 **Enact a law on access to freedom of information in line with international standards (Chile);**

129.173 **Allow for a more open expression of individual opinions, allow civil society organisations to develop and allow public expression of popular demands (Norway);**

129.174 **Support the efforts of civil society in strengthening human rights through specifying the necessary resources to implement its activities in spreading awareness on the principles of human rights (Iraq);**

129.175 **Provide more support to civil society associations (Bahrain);**

129.176 **Take measures to protect rights activists and remove any impediments to the work of political opposition parties, human rights groups, and other independent civil society organizations (Ireland);**

129.177 **Take new measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to promote their participation in public life, including in decision-making positions and governmental functions (Spain);**

129.178 **Provide more opportunities to women to be represented in high-level government posts (Georgia);**

129.179 **Continue the efforts aimed at empowering and protecting women's rights, in addition to empowering women socially and politically (Jordan);**

129.180 **Increase the space for the representation of women in senior government positions (Lebanon);**

129.181 **Take additional efforts towards the participation of women in the area of political life (Libya);**

129.182 **Strengthen efforts to promote the active presence of women in society and in political life, including by combating stereotypes through awareness-raising campaigns (Turkey);**

129.183 **Increase the representation of women in high government positions and elected councils (Algeria);**

129.184 **Take steps to increase women's participation in elections to the Shura Council, both as voters and candidates, and to widen the participation of all citizens in the decision-making processes (Czech Republic);**

129.185 **Continue the efforts aiming at economic growth in the country (Pakistan);**

129.186 **Continue efforts to promote and strengthen human rights, in particular by focusing on the economic growth and by improving the well-being of the population (Djibouti);**

129.187 **Continue making further efforts to promote the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights (Qatar);**

129.188 **Take steps to ensure the successful implementation of the various programmes in accordance with its social security law (Brunei Darussalam);**

129.189 **Continue the establishment of development programmes, especially in rural areas (Brunei Darussalam);**

129.190 **Continue the practices of valuing social dialogue and promoting the concept of tolerance in Omani culture (Turkmenistan);**

129.191 **Continue strengthening its excellent programmes for social protection, working for the achievement of welfare and the best possible standard of living for its people (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

129.192 **Continue its efforts aiming at providing adequate housing to all its citizens (United Arab Emirates);**

129.193 **Continue to work collaboratively with the private sector and relevant stakeholders in protecting the labour rights (Thailand);**

129.194 **Continue to make efforts to enhance the awareness among workers and employers on laws and rules on labour by implementing concrete programmes for awareness-raising (Tajikistan);**

129.195 **Continue efforts to improve labour relations system through the development of social dialogue between the Government and the organizations of employers and workers (Uzbekistan);**

129.196 **Increase efforts to investigate and criminally prosecute forced labour offenses and sentence convicted offenders to adequate terms of imprisonment (United States of America);**

129.197 **Strengthen the mechanism dealing with expatriate workers to meet the service requirements and to protect their rights according to its Labour Law (Brunei Darussalam);**

129.198 **Step up its efforts in promoting and protecting human rights of migrant workers in the country (Indonesia);**

129.199 **Continue its policies to improve access to education for all, including for migrant workers and members of their families (Indonesia);**

129.200 **Continue increasing the rate of women in the workforce in the civil service sector and further enabling women in the labour area (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

129.201 **Abolish the kafala system which restricts rights of foreign workers and their access to redress mechanisms and make them vulnerable to various forms of abuse (Czech Republic);**

129.202 **Continue its efforts in addressing the welfare of foreign workers (Bangladesh);**

129.203 **Take all necessary measures, as appropriate, to ensure the legal protection of foreign workers through policies designed at preventing any form of abuse (Panama);**

129.204 **Review the *kafala* system, and study possible alternatives in managing foreign labour, with a view to strengthening protection for domestic workers, including from violence and abuse, and to provide effective avenues for redress (Philippines);**

129.205 **Continue to take measures for greater participation, involvement and empowerment of women in all socio-economic fields of the country (Pakistan);**

129.206 **Continue efforts to improve the status of women in society and further promote gender equality at all levels, enhancing the contribution of women to the country's development process (Sri Lanka);**

129.207 **Support the social integration of women in all spheres of life (Tajikistan);**

129.208 **Promote the active presence of women in the society (Chile);**

129.209 **Take further steps to strengthen the delivery of health-care services and improve health-care infrastructure (Singapore);**

129.210 **Pursue efforts to ensure fairness in education, in particular the right to basic education for students with disabilities (China);**

129.211 **Continue providing universal and free education (Bhutan);**

129.212 **Ensure compulsory and free education for all (Slovenia);**

129.213 **Establish a mandatory and free education for all, with a view to continue the fight against illiteracy (Argentina);**

129.214 **Continue its efforts in finalizing the process of free and compulsory basic education (Sudan);**

129.215 **Continue its efforts in strengthening moderation and religious tolerance, particularly through the education sector (Syrian Arab Republic);**

129.216 **Continue efforts to ensure equal access to education for women and girls, and advocate for broader participation of women in the labour force (Maldives);**

129.217 **Continue setting up national annual plans on education and awareness-raising of human rights, including through a field visit in this area (Saudi Arabia);**

129.218 **Continue to pursue efforts to improve access to education, including for persons with disabilities (Singapore);**

129.219 **Taking into account the capacity of Oman in protecting the right to education, carry out an exchange of experience in the area of education, and an exchange of achievements in the area of the oversight of educational institutions (Tajikistan);**

129.220 **Consolidate the concepts of human rights through students' activities and exhibitions organized by Omani Universities (Cuba);**

129.221 **Adopt a comprehensive policy to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, and to build on measures already adopted such as the establishment of the General Directorate for persons with disabilities (Spain);**

129.222 **Increase the access to education of children with disability by allocating more resources (Honduras);**

129.223 **Continue strengthening its policy to improve access by persons with disabilities to education (Panama);**

129.224 **Further improve access by persons with disabilities to education through the implementation of the National Strategy for the Disabled (Maldives);**

129.225 **Improve the access of disabled children to education by increasing the number of specialized educational teams and customized facilities (Turkey);**

129.226 **Strengthen the protection of people with disabilities, step up exchange of experience with other States in the field of protection of rights of children with disabilities (China);**

129.227 **Work to share and implement best practices in the area of promoting the rights of children with disabilities (Saudi Arabia);**

129.228 **Continue to assist and protect minorities, vulnerable groups and persons displaced due to natural disasters or conflicts (Senegal);**

129.229 **Continue its efforts to combat the phenomenon of terrorism and money laundering (Libya);**

129.230 **Strengthen the legal mechanisms for combating terrorism and extremism (Uzbekistan);**

129.231 **Implement training programmes for information technology to help combat electronic crimes (Morocco);**

129.232 **Continue the efforts to combat cyber-technology crimes, in particular when committed against youth (Egypt);**

129.233 **Continue efforts to protect the environment (Djibouti).**

130. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Oman was headed by H.E. Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Said Al Sa'eedi, Minister of Legal Affairs, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Abdulla Nasser Al Rahbi, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman in Geneva;
- H.E. Mr. Taleb Miran Al Rayissi, Advisor to the Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs, Head of the Legal Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Yousuf Said Al Amri, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman in Geneva;
- Dr. Yahya Mohammed Zaher Al Hinai, General Director of Family Development, Ministry of Social Development;
- Mr. Mohammed Asalam Al Shanfari, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman in Geneva;
- Dr. Hamda Hamad Al Saadi, Associate Professor in the Rustaq College of Applied Science, Ministry of Higher Education;
- Mr. Khalid Saleh Al Lamki, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman in Geneva;
- Mr. Saif Nasser Al Hamidi, Chief of Minister's Office, Ministry of Legal Affairs;
- Mr. Saleh Ali Al Mahrouqi, First Assistant Advisor, Ministry of Legal Affairs;
- Mr. Jamal Salem Al Nabhani, First Assistant Advisor, Ministry of Legal Affairs;
- Mr. Dawood Suleiman Al Busaidi, Ministry of Interior;
- Mr. Abdullah Murad Al Mullahi, Director of the Directorate of International Organizations and External Relations, Ministry of Manpower;
- Ms. Faiza Masoud Al Nabhani, Second Secretary, Minister's Office Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.